

ENGLISH MASTERY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Public Meeting at:

Meeting Locations:	Carson City, NV (Video Conference) Department of Education Board Room 700 East Fifth Street	<i>and</i>	Las Vegas, NV (Video Conference) Department of Education Board Room 9890 South Maryland Pkwy	<i>and</i>	Elko, NV (Video Conference) Great Basin College Modular Conference Room Chilton Circle 1500 College Parkway
---------------------------	--	------------	---	------------	---

1. **Call to Order**

Council Chair Magdalena Martinez called to order the full meeting of the English Mastery Council at 9:10 A.M. on February 17, 2015.

2. **Roll Call**

Secretary Susan Johnson conducted a roll call.

The following Council members were present in Carson City: Dale Erquiaga, Keith Boone, Nancy Brune, Denise Dufrene, Barbara McLaury, Rachel Salas

Lynn Manning John was present at Great Basin College, Elko, Nevada

The following Council members were present in Las Vegas: Magdalena Martinez, Edith Fernandez, Lorna James-Cervantes, Duncan Lee, Tracy Spies, Evangelyn Visser

Absent Council Members: Lilian Steger, Margaret Maija Talso

NDE staff present: Jane Splean, Blakely Hume, Karl Wilson (attending in Las Vegas), Kulwadee Axtell, Jonathan Gibson, Susan Johnson

Attorney General staff present: Deputy Greg Ott

Public in attendance in Las Vegas: Jose Solorio, Kevin Graziano, Tracy Clark

Public in attendance in Carson City: Ken Coll, Rommy Cronin

The Council has a quorum (13 members in attendance)

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Lead by Chair Martinez

4. **Introduction**

Chair Martinez introduced new English Mastery Council member, Lorna James-Cervantes. Ms. James-Cervantes, Assistant Chief Student Achievement Officer in Clark County, stated she has been in Clark County for 24 years, as a building administrator and teaching various classes.

5. **Approval of Minutes from the December 2, 2014 Meeting**

Jane Splean stated that the Minutes were recorded, but written Minutes are not available. Ms. Martinez requested that Minutes be available at the next full meeting.

6. **Public Comment**

Chair Martinez announced that the floor is open for public comments at this time. There was no public comment in the north. Jose Solorio, Chair of the Latino Leadership Council Higher Ed Committee (attending in the south), expressed concern regarding a letter prohibiting colleges from participating in ELL recommendations. He stated that nearly half of the student population is Latino. As a community representative, he would like to provide input by stating the committee he represents supports the recommendations to include an ELAD endorsement as part of the 123 credit course load for colleges and universities.

7. **English Mastery Council Annual Status Report**

Chair Martinez asked that an NDE representative give an update on the Report. Blakely Hume stated that the full Report was emailed to all Council members on Thursday. Karl Wilson stated that the Report itself is five (5) pages and the appendices added make the full Report. Blakely explained and summarized sections of the Report. Karl stated that the Report was being printed for Council members in Las Vegas. Ms. Martinez would like the subcommittee chairs to discuss the status of their subcommittees. She moved to Agenda Item 4, and stated she would return to Item 3, once everyone had a copy of the full Report.

8. **Update on the District Policy and Criteria Planning Recommendations**

Chair Martinez asked Keith Boone, subcommittee Chair, to provide an update. Karl Wilson offered to give an update regarding the policy recommendations. Karl referred to a presentation to the State Board of Education of the Recommendations, and referred to two documents presented: District English Learner (EL) Policy Criteria Recommendations and the English Mastery Council Update power point of December 11, 2014. Karl Wilson stated that the State Board accepted those recommendations. Jane Splean referred to a third document in the packet - the Excerpt From the Minutes of the December 11, 2014 State Board Meeting, which contain the approved Minutes. Ms. Martinez stated that the State Board of Education was supportive of the recommendations.

Dale Erquiaga stated that regulations cannot be adopted at this time, and beginning in July, the Department staff will begin promulgation of the criteria as a regulation. The revised regulations would have to be reviewed by the Council again, as the lawyers at LCB will rewrite the language. Mr. Erquiaga stated that there will be a workshop and public hearing at the Board level, which will take 60-90 days. Karl Wilson added the portion under the curriculum subcommittee was recommended to be imbedded within the district policy and was approved in December.

Edith Fernandez asked when the terms expire on the Council appointments. Ms. Martinez stated she would clarify that question at a point further into the meeting when everyone had the full Report.

9. **Update on the Standards and Curriculum Recommendations**

Karl Wilson provided this update. He stated the NDE made a presentation to the Nevada Board of Education in January and proposed that the State formally adopt the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) English Language Development Standards and the Early English Language Development Standards as English Development Standards for the State of Nevada. There was a recommendation for the State Board of Education to provide a framework to assist districts, schools and teachers in the implementation of the English Language Development Standards. No action was taken by the State Board of Education at the January meeting. During the legislative period, no formal process would be taken to develop new standards.

Dale Erquiaga commented that he was under the impression that the standards would have to be adopted as regulation because that is how standards are adopted. Mr. Erquiaga stated that SB504 provided no mechanism by which the standards should be adopted. The item has been posted for consideration by the Board in March and he has informed legal Counsel. Mr. Erquiaga is hopeful that the Board will be able to take both items for action - the standards and the direction to staff at that time. Ms. Martinez asked if there were any recommendations for changes. Mr. Erquiaga stated he believed there were comments and questions about WIDA and the Early Standards, and he stated the Board's level of trust for the Council is very high.

10. Presentation by Invited Guests

Chair Martinez opened the floor to college or university representatives to address the Council.

Kevin Graziano, Professor of Teacher Education at Nevada State College, School of Education, teaching mainly TESL courses, presented some suggestions to consider with the TESL recommendations. He presented these five suggestions:

- 1) Get the NSHE Waiver to increase all degrees to 124 credits / work 6-12 credits into all teaching degrees,
- 2) Build in 6 credits of TESL courses into undergraduate programs and have school districts require the additional 6 credits as part of their recertification requirements,
- 3) Change the 12 credits to competencies and have students meet the competencies in their field based courses,
- 4) Imbed TESL theory and TESL instruction into elementary and secondary literacy courses, and have students take their assessment and curriculum courses separately,
- 5) Have the theories course revised so it can be required in the core curriculum for pre-majors.

Mr. Graziano would like to see increased involvement with partnership schools throughout the state.

Tracy Spies stated UNLV staff has had conversations related to these recommendations and imbedding theories in course work. Lorna James-Cervantes asked why they would not imbed the theory into the math and science course work. Mr. Graziano stated the literacy faculty has been cross-trained in TESL areas and with their expertise, they are able to teach in both areas. Edith Fernandez commented that she is proud of Nevada State College faculty working through all of this. Rachel Salas asked Mr. Graziano if he would be willing to share thoughts and ideas at a future TESL subcommittee meeting. He replied absolutely.

Ken Coll, Dean of College of Education, University of Nevada, Reno referred to the January 8, 2015 NSHE letter to the English Mastery Council. Summarizing the Deans' thoughts, Mr. Coll stated they express their full support in terms of curricular changes and recommendations that all pre-service teachers be endorsable. Ms. Salas asked if the Deans were willing to work with them. Mr. Coll replied yes, the initiative is vitally important to the state. Evangelyn Visser asked what type of meetings have they had? He stated the Deans have been talking formally and informally for approximately one year. Ms. Visser asked how the Board of Regents are involved in the process? Mr. Coll stated the Board set the 120 credit-hour limit and the Waivers would need to be approved on some level by the Board. Ms. Salas stated that there is a position open for EL/TESL staff.

Tracy Spies stated that at UNLV, there were discussions that when students leave the university, it is essential for students' transcripts to reflect the ELAD endorsement and the 12 credits. Ms. Salas stated they have had discussions related to the practicum. Keith Boone commented that there is a training component that should happen at the university level. Lorna James-Cervantes added that

the universities and subcommittee be aware that student teachers in the schools with high EL populations in the at-risk schools so they are getting the application part. She stated they see very few student teachers in Clark County that have high EL populations or high at-risk populations.

11. Update on the TESL Recommendations

Rachel Salas stated these recommendations: replace the name TESL with ELAD; replace the current courses with four new courses, including dividing into elementary and secondary focus; create an endorsement for the ELAD specialist; recommend that all teacher preparation programs prepare pre-service and initial licensure students to have ELAD no later than two years after adoption of regulation; require all new educator licensees to have ELAD endorsement; and 3 semester hours of continuing ed in the area of ELAD. Ms. Salas stated they went to the Commission on Professional Standards (COPS) on December 3 to present the recommendations that were voted upon by the EMC. At the COPS meeting, the following recommendations were approved to move to hearing on February 25: ELAD, part of recommendation number 2 - the practicum, 2.2 amended to include English Language Acquisition Development Specialist Endorsement. Recommendation 3.2 was not approved to move to hearing. Recommendation 3.1 will go to workshop, which will be scheduled at a future date.

Ms. Salas stated that Recommendation 1 to change the name, and Recommendation 2 regarding the courses have moved forward. Practicum and Endorsement would go to hearing.

Karl Wilson states that the full Report has been distributed to the Council members in the south.

Dale Erquiaga expressed appreciation for Ms. Salas' report. He stated if COPS fails to adopt the recommendations, then those recommendations, in this instance, would move to the State Board for consideration. Mr. Erquiaga stated that the Board has the authority to invalidate a regulation adopted by the Commission. Mr. Erquiaga asked if he should put this item on the Agenda for March or, should this move forward to see if the system and subcommittee can come to some accommodation.

There was further discussion regarding the recommendations and it was concluded that Recommendation 3.1 - Teacher Preparation, had to go to the State Board, Recommendation 3.2 - New Licensees had not been approved, and Recommendation 4 - Existing Licensees, was sent back to the EMC to rework, and the Board must reconsider the Recommendation.

Deputy Attorney General Greg Ott, stated he did not believe that because a recommendation was declined by COPS, that it would be required to go before the State Board under SB504.

To summarize, Mr. Erquiaga stated that he would confer with the deputy Attorney General as to if or when the items should go before the Board, but he felt that 3.1 and 3.2 should go before the Board for consideration. Ms. Salas stated that Recommendation 4 would go back to the TESL subcommittee to be revised.

Chair Martinez returned to Agenda Item 3, and Karl Wilson stated that in December there was a presentation to the Board regarding the recommendations by the EMC and those recommendations were accepted. He provided an explanation and summary of all areas of the Annual Status Report.

Chair Martinez reported that, per statute, the English Mastery Council would remain in effect through June 30, 2019. Mr. Wilson stated that the term length is a two-year term and the Governor makes those appointments. A term may be extended at the end of the term. A few positions are appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chancellor of the Board of Regents.

Jane Splean pointed out an error to correct on page 2 of the Annual Status Report, under Duties of the English Mastery Council, NRS should be changed from 385.405 to NRS 388.405. Duncan Lee asked if the EMC was on track to meet the desired goals in providing the recommendations? Ms. Splean stated that the Council has made good faith effort to meet and address all of the charges under SB504.

Mr. Lee asked if additional meetings should be scheduled to allow additional time for work? Ms. Splean stated that at the May 7 meeting, hopefully there would be clarification as to the next steps of the Council. Ms. Martinez stated there should be some TESL Subcommittee recommendations (reformulated) at the next meeting and action items. Ms. Visser stated there is a typo to correct under Conclusion, page 6, which currently states “Leaners”, and should be corrected to “Learners”. Ms. Splean reported that she would also like to revise the format of the Report and add some supporting documents.

Chair Martinez entertained a motion to approve the Annual Status Report, with the corrections stated. Duncan Lee made a Motion to Approve the Annual Status Report, and Tracy Spies seconded the Motion. No discussion. Motion carried.

12. **NDE English Learner Team Report**

Jane Splean highlighted the EL Team Report. She referred to a Review of the Education Initiatives for the New Nevada, found on the NDE website. Dale Erquiaga referred to other informational documents on the website, and stated the key recommendation in the Governor’s Budget for the EMC is the doubling of the Zoom Program – an additional \$50 million dollars. He touched on other highlights of the Governor’s Proposal.

Ms. Splean stated a new project with WIDA has been launched. NDE has partnered with WIDA Early Years in support of young dual language learners. She gave a report on the work and progress of the partnership with WIDA. Jonathan Gibson gave a lengthy and very detailed report on the Annual Measurement Achievement Objectives (AMAOs), and current status.

13. **Public Comments:**

Chair Martinez stated she received a letter from the Latino Leadership Council which she forwarded to the Department of Education to include as part of the formal meeting Minutes of the February 17 meeting. No public comments were presented, north or south.

14. **Adjournment**

The English Mastery Council Chair, Magdalena Martinez, adjourned the meeting at 11:30 A.M.